



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

### **TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE February 27, 2009**

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### **House Bill 6049 - An Act Concerning Facilities of Colleges that Offer Mortuary Science**

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The Department of Public Health provides the following information with regard to House Bill 6049:

This bill would amend Section 20-220 of the General Statutes to allow colleges offering instruction in mortuary science to install working preparation embalming rooms to allow students studying mortuary science to receive practical experience in a classroom setting.

- With the exception of facilities that are authorized to accept bodies for anatomical donation and use such bodies solely for the purposes of medical and surgical study, embalming can only occur within a facility that holds a certificate of inspection as a funeral service business issued by the Department.
- It is not clear from this proposal whether colleges offering instruction in mortuary science are seeking authorization to accept anatomical donations.

Section 19a-270 of the General Statutes outlines the specific laws that govern facilities that are authorized to accept bodies for anatomical donation and use such bodies for the purposes of medical and surgical study. **Should this proposal move forward, the Department urges the Committee to establish similar standards for mortuary colleges.**

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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